IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS **AUSTIN DIVISION**

Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, and 3D Systems, Inc., Plaintiffs,

v. Civil Action No. A03 CA 113 SS

EOS GmbH Electro Optical Systems, Defendant.

EOS GMBH ELECTRO OPTICAL SYSTEMS' RESPONSE

TO PLAINTIFFS' OPENING MARKMAN BRIEF

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I. INTRODUCTION

This Court can ignore the first five pages of Plaintiffs' Opening brief. They have no bearing on the claim construction issues. For example, on page 1, Plaintiffs try to paint a picture that it was Carl Deckard at UT who "invented" laser sintering, and that EOS copied DTM's machines. In addition to being untrue, Plaintiffs assertions are utterly irrelevant to claim construction. Plaintiffs also inject made-up terms such as "Curl Interface" and "Growth Interface" in an attempt to confuse the *Markman* process. Why do Plaintiffs need to manufacture new terminology even further removed from the patents? We shall see.

With regard to actual *Markman* issues, Plaintiffs only address two claim elements: the "temperature control means to moderate the temperature difference" limitation in claim 1 of the '589 Patent, and the related "heating ... to moderate a temperature difference" step in claim 1 of the '070 Patent. There is no dispute that the former is a means-plus-function limitation under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶6, but the parties dispute whether the latter is a step-plus-function limitation under the same statute. Regardless of whether the step in Claim 1 of the '070 Patent is in step-plusfunction format, "moderat[ing] a temperature difference" is itself a limitation of each claim, and its construction is in the first instance dictated by the specification and what was said in the file history to obtain allowance of the claim.

During the prosecution of both patents, Dr. Deckard, consistently and repeatedly stated in no uncertain terms that "moderating a temperature difference" includes the removal of bulk heat to prevent growth of the part being built. These statements were made for the express

¹ EOS will not clutter the record here by responding to each and every one of these unsubstantiated statements. However, EOS notes that at the technical tutorial, it proved that the general concept of laser sintering was known at least as early as 1981 when the Housholder patent issued, years before Carl Deckard entered the field.

purpose of distinguishing the prior art: U.S. Patent No. 4,818,562 to Arcella et al. ("Arcella") (Exh. D, pp. 111-119). Because the broader claim scope -- simply heating the top layer -- was expressly disclaimed in order to obtain claim allowance, Plaintiffs cannot recapture that claim scope by arguing that "moderating a temperature difference" does not also require the removal of bulk heat to prevent growth.

Interestingly, Plaintiffs try to paint Deckard and his patent attorney as fools, who supposedly made incorrect, gratuitous, and otherwise stupid arguments to obtain allowance of the patents-in-suit. Yet these were the representatives chosen by UT to represent it before the Patent Office. The black-letter law does not permit the patentee to assert an "incompetency" plea based upon its former representation before the Patent Office. Spring Window Fashions LP v. Novo Indus., L.P., 323 F.3d 989, 995 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (noting that the "public notice function of a patent and its prosecution history requires that a patentee be held to what he declares during the prosecution of his patent" and that where the prosecuting attorney's statements were "detailed, consistent, and repeated," a "reasonable competitor would have believed that the applicant's disclaiming statements were not a mere mistake"); see also Desper Prods., Inc. v. Osound Labs, Inc., 157 F.3d 1325, 1334-36 (Fed. Cir. 1998) (patent attorney's remarks regarding pending claim were not "extraneous" where they were made to overcome prior art and would be used to interpret language of the claim).

² Remarkably, the only "evidence" Plaintiffs rely on in these five pages is the Declaration of Plaintiffs' trial counsel, Robert Dickerson.

"MODERATING A TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE" MUST BE CONSTRUED II. TO INCLUDE THE REMOVAL OF BULK HEAT FROM THE FUSED PART TO PREVENT GROWTH

What Is The Meaning Of "Moderating A Temperature Difference"? A.

In Claim 1 of the '589 patent, construing "moderating a temperature difference" to include the removal of bulk heat is consistent with the plain meaning of the claim. Note that the word "heating" does not even appear in the claim.

Plaintiffs cite a dictionary definition of "moderate" to mean "lessen," and lessening can certainly occur during "moderation." However, moderate means just a bit more than "lessen."

In Webster's Third New International Dictionary (1981),3 the verb "moderate" is also defined as "to make moderate or temperate." (Exh. G.) As an adjective, "moderate" is also defined as "tending toward the mean or average" (Exh. G) and "temperate," in connection with temperature, means not too hot and not too cold. Thus, to moderate, one lessens the extremes by urging both extremes inward toward the mean or average. POne does not moderate something by merely pushing one extreme toward the other.4

At page 8 of its brief, 3D stresses (in heading B) the importance of construing claim terms "in context" and "consistent with the surrounding text." 3D then ignores all of the language in the claim element at issue, and focuses its analysis on the word "heating," which appears only in Claim 1 of the '070 patent.

But Claim 1 of the '070 patent does not recite "heating" by itself, it recites "heating ... to moderate the temperature difference." Viewed in context, Claim 1 of the '070 patent requires "heating the second layer of powder to a temperature below the sintering temperature of the

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³ EOS continues the identification of Exhibits from its Opening Brief.

⁴ Indeed, after the "sun moderates the chill," as suggested by 3D's definition, the air is warmer than it was, but it is still cooler than the sun. Cf. Plaintiffs' Opening Brief, fn. 14.

powder, to moderate a temperature difference between the second layer of powder and fused portions of the first layer of powder." Note that the powder is heated to a specific temperature,⁵ which is cooler than that of the part that has just been fused.

If "moderate" only means "heat," there would be no purpose to specifying that the powder is heated to a specific temperature ... to moderate the temperature difference between the fused and unfused powder. The fact that the specified temperature is lower than that of the fused powder, thereby enabling the removal of bulk heat from the fused powder, is not coincidental, as described in the specification and the file history.

Any doubt about the plain meaning of the claim term in either the '589 or the '070 patent evaporates in the face of the respective file histories. Applicant's clear, unmistakable and deliberate statements requiring the removal of bulk heat leave no doubt that removal of bulk heat is a required element of the claim.

Statements Contained in the '070 File History Dictate that the Claims В. **Include Removing Bulk Heat to Prevent Growth**

A proper Markman analysis requires a review of the claims, the specification, and the file history to understand the meaning of the words written then, not now. Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc., 52 F.3d 967, 979 (Fed. Cir. 1995), aff'd, 517 U.S. 370 (1996). The reason why each of these must be thoroughly reviewed is because "[n]o matter how clear a claim appears to be, lurking in the background are documents that may completely disrupt initial views on its meaning." Autogiro Co. of Am. v. United States, 384 F.2d 391, 397 (Ct. Cl. 1967); Tandon Corp. v. U.S.I.T.C., 831 F.2d 1017, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1987). In this case, the file history of the

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⁵ In the Opening Memorandum, EOS demonstrated that the "sintering temperature of the powder" is indefinite and cannot be construed. However, it is clear from the specification, the prosecution history and the claim itself that whatever this temperature is, it is below the temperature of the sintered (fused) part.

'070 Patent is such a document, and the statements made therein clearly and unmistakably limit the claim well beyond its literal terms.

1. Deckard Clearly And Unmistakably Disavowed The Claim Scope That Plaintiffs Are Trying To Resurrect

During prosecution of the '070 patent, Deckard limited the scope of the claim by arguing that "to moderate the temperature difference" includes removal of bulk heat to prevent growth of the article being formed. He did so to overcome the Arcella reference, which discloses an electrical heater that heats powder but does not remove bulk heat.

In particular, Deckard first argued that "moderating the temperature difference" is accomplished by merely heating the top layer of powder "to reduce shrinkage." In response, the Examiner cited the Arcella reference because that reference disclosed a heater that heats the powder prior to the laser fusing the powder.

Like the patents-in-suit, Arcella discloses building a part out of powder, layer by layer, using a laser. In contrast to the patents-in-suit, Arcella constantly fluidizes the unfused powder between the formation of each layer, and does not disclose unfused and fused powder being in proximity long enough for "growth" to occur.

More specifically, Arcella discloses a fluidized bed 1 (see Figs. 1 and 2, Exh. D at 112-113) having a casting chamber 2 having a porous diffuser plate 3 near its base. Powder 15 is supplied to the fluidized bed 1 from storage bin 19 and is fluidized by a gas, as follows. A valve 41 is turned on to permit gas from tank 40 to fluidize powder 15 through plate 3. The valve 41 is then closed, allowing the powder to settle and leaving a layer of powder on surface 17. The laser 13 is turned on and a laser beam 12 melts powder that is over surface 17, causing the melted powder to fuse onto surface 17, where it cools and solidifies. After the first layer of the shape has been formed, valve 41 is again opened to admit gas from tank 40 into enclosure

7, again fluidizing powder 15, throwing a new layer of powder over the top of part 16. Because the powder is fluidized following each layer formation, Arcella does not disclose unfused powder remaining in proximity with the fused powder, and hence, Arcella does not encounter a problem with growth.

Because Arcella does not encounter the problem of growth, much less solve it, Deckard distinguished his invention over Arcella by explaining that "moderating a temperature difference" between the fused and unfused powder included removing bulk heat from the fused part to prevent growth.

Note that the Examiner stated that if "heating" was all that was required for "moderating," then Arcella had it. (Exh. D, p. 161). In response, Deckard had to change his argument, and distinguish the Arcella reference by explicitly stating that "moderating" requires "the removal of bulk heat from the article which prevents growth of the article into surrounding unfused powder." (Exh. D, pp. 167, 178). Deckard's admission as to why the Arcella prior art patent did not have what his claims required was clear, unmistakable, and deliberate: Arcella does not have anything to "moderate a temperature difference" between unfused and fused powder because Arcella does not remove bulk heat from the fused part to prevent growth.

By insisting that the moderation occurring in the claims removes bulk heat from the fused powder, Deckard rejected that Examiner's broad assessment of the claim scope (i.e., that "moderating the temperature difference" is accomplished simply by heating the top layer to reduce shrinkage), and stated in the public record what his invention could not be (i.e., simply lessening the temperature difference by heating the top layer to reduce shrinkage). Because Deckard surrendered the broader construction of the function of "moderating a temperature difference" (as simply heating the top layer to "lessen" the temperature difference between the

first two layers) and instead chose the narrower construction of that function (including the removal of bulk heat to prevent growth), he unmistakably disclaimed the broader construction.

> The Disclaimer of Claim Scope In This Case Is Exactly The Same 2. Type Of Disclaimer That Happened In The Recent Federal Circuit Case of Omega Engineering

This case is strikingly similar to a very recent Federal Circuit case, Omega Eng'g, Inc. v. Raytek Corp., 334 F.3d 1314 (Fed. Cir. 2003). In Omega, the Federal Circuit provided a very thorough analysis of the law on the doctrine of prosecution disclaimer, which precludes patentees from capturing through claim interpretation specific meanings, and therefore claim scope, surrendered during prosecution. In Omega, the claim element at issue was written in meansplus-function format:

means for causing said at least one laser beam to strike the periphery of the energy zone for visibly outlining said entire energy zone.

Id. at 1318-19 (emphasis in original). The Omega court's analysis focused on the meaning of "to visibly outline." Ultimately, the court construed the claimed function to be:

the causing of at least one laser beam to strike the periphery of the energy zone for visibly outlining the entire energy zone, without adding appreciable heat to the energy zone as to affect the accuracy of the temperature measurement.

Id. at 1328 (emphasis added).

Despite the fact that the literal terms of the claim only required "to visibly outline," the Omega court's definition included the requirement of not adding appreciable heat to the energy zone. This went beyond the literal terms of the claim because the prosecution history of that patent indicated "that a clear and unmistakable disclaimer occurred regarding the term 'to visibly outline' in the claimed function...." Id. at 1326. In particular, the applicant repeatedly argued (to overcome prior art) that the invention would have no effect on the temperature measurement to be taken when it outlines the energy zone. Id. By doing so, the patentee "put the examiner

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and the public on notice of invention's crucial feature: The invention would not add appreciable heat to the energy zone." Id.

The *Omega* court concluded:

By insisting that its invention directs energy in a way that does not affect temperature measurement, the patentee has rejected the examiner's broad assessment of the claim scope and stated in a public record what his invention could not be. That statement is a deliberate surrender of claim scope, unmistakable in its effect because it is not suitable to multiple interpretations as in Northern Telecom [Ltd. v. Samsung Elec. Co.], 215 F.3d [1281,] 1294, 55 USPQ2d at 1075 [Fed. Cir. 2000)]. There is only one possible interpretation of this clear statement: The inventions covered by claims 1 and 3 have significantly reduced effect on temperature measurement.

Since the patentee offered a narrower construction of the verb "to visibly outline" in the disputed function, it has clearly and unmistakably disclaimed the territory between the full and ordinary meaning of the claim language and the asserted new meaning. The claimed function, as stated in claims 1 and 3, must not add appreciable heat to the energy zone as to affect the accuracy of the temperature measurement.

Id. at 1327.

The exact same situation is present here. Deckard had to agree that "moderating a temperature difference" requires bulk heat to be removed from the fused part to prevent growth in order to distinguish the claim over Arcella and get the claim allowed.

Plaintiffs' Argument That There Was Not A Clear And 3. Unmistakable Disavowal Of Claim Scope Is Belied By The Record

Plaintiffs try to explain away the '070 file history by arguing that the statements made therein are both inaccurate and irreconcilable, and thus are "at best ambiguous." (Plaintiffs' Opening Brief, p. 12). Plaintiffs point out that initially, Deckard explained that "to moderate a temperature difference" in claim 1 includes reducing thermal shrinkage in the articles being produced, while later in the prosecution Deckard twice repeated the statements that issued claim 1 also accomplished the goal of preventing growth by removing bulk heat from the article.

Contrary to 3D's assertions, these statements are not in conflict with one another. Rather, these statements merely show that initially Deckard was trying to convince the Examiner that the claim only required heating the unfused powder to reduce shrinkage. The Examiner rejected that argument because Arcella discloses a heater for heating unfused powder to "provide heat treatment and stress relief" (*i.e.*, to reduce shrinkage). (Arcella, Exh. D, at 114, col. 6, lns. 50-55). In order to get the claim allowed, Deckard then further limited the claim by arguing that the claim required the removal of bulk heat to prevent growth. There is no inconsistency here. Rather, this merely reflects standard patent prosecution.

Plaintiffs also rely heavily on the fact that later in the prosecution, Deckard argued that issued dependent claim 6 also provides the benefit of bulk heat removal. According to Plaintiffs, this statement is somehow inaccurate and irreconcilable with the statements attributing to claim 1 the goal of preventing growth. But claim 6 depends from claim 1 (and therefore requires everything that Claim 1 requires), and the embellishment of how the bulk heat is removed provided by claim 6 does not in any way mean that this broad function is not in claim 1. The removal of bulk heat is required by both claims, and discussing it as to both claims 1 and 6 is perfectly consistent.

Plaintiffs' reliance on *Texas Digital Sys., Inc, v. Telegenix, Inc.*, 308 F.3d 1193, 1207 (Fed. Cir. 2002) (arguments presented during prosecution history were not germane to definition of claim term at issue); *Teleflex, Inc. v. Ficosa N. Am. Corp.*, 299 F.3d 1313, 1326, 1327 (Fed. Cir. 2002) ("[a]rguments and amendments made during the prosecution of a patent application ... must be examined to determine the meaning of terms in the claims" but noting that "neither the specification nor the prosecution history includes an expression of manifest exclusion or restriction demonstrating an intent to limit" the claim); *Arlington Indus., Inc. v. Bridgeport*

Fittings, Inc., 345 F.3d 1318 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (characterizing prior art did not constitute disclaimer); and Brookhill-Wilk 1, LLC v. Intuitive Surgical, Inc., 334 F.3d 1294 (Fed. Cir. 2003) (the specification recited advantages of the preferred embodiments, not requirements of the claims) is misplaced -- in none of these cases did the inventor disavow claim scope during prosecution, as Deckard so clearly and unmistakably did in this case. Further, and as set forth in the case law cited in the Introduction, supra, Plaintiffs are bound by these admissions, even if Deckard and UT's attorney were inaccurate or mistaken.

4. The Case Law Relied Upon By Plaintiffs Is Completely Inapposite To This Patent Prosecution

Plaintiffs cast great weight on *Storage Tech. Corp. v. Cisco Sys., Inc.*, 329 F.3d 823, 832 (Fed. Cir. 2003), for the proposition that inaccurate and erroneous statements made during prosecution cannot be used to narrow the claim. In *Storage*, the claim required the step of "caching policy identification." *Id.* at 827. The defendant (the accused infringer) argued that a statement contained in the file history limited the claim to *also* require the caching of the instance of network policy. *Id.* at 832. During prosecution, the applicant stated that the "policy identification information" and the "instance of network policy" are both cached. *Id.* at 832. The court acknowledged that while "this statement appears to limit claim scope, it cannot do so absent some claim language referring to the caching of the instance of network policy." *Id.* Thus, the *Storage* court found that the statement "erroneously suggests that the independent claims include a cache for the instance of network policy" and held that the "inaccurate statement [that the claim limitation "caching policy information" also includes "caching of the issuance of network policy"] cannot override the claim language itself, which controls the bounds of the claim." *Id.*

In other words, the Storage case deals with a situation where the claim recited "element A," but during the prosecution the applicant mistakenly states that the invention requires "element A" and "element B." In the instant case, the term "moderating the temperature difference" is already in the claim -- there is no dispute about "element A." What we have here is Deckard then clarifying that "element A" means the removal of bulk heat to prevent growth and heating to reduce shrinkage. He did not say that the claim required a totally different element.

All of the other cases relied upon by Plaintiffs are similarly distinguishable. In Northern Telecom, 215 F.3d at 1293-95, the claim limitation was directed to "plasma etching," and the defendant (the accused infringer) argued that that limitation must exclude "ion bombardment" because of two paragraphs in the file history. Id. at 1293-94. In one paragraph, the applicant described prior art references which happened to disclose "ion bombardment" and then concluded that such prior art was "concerned with a totally different process." Id. at 1294. However:

[t]he description of the asserted references as "concerned with a totally different process" in paragraph 2 is far too slender a reed to support the judicial narrowing of a clear claim term. The inventors do not specify (except in paragraph 3, of course) how the references are "totally different."

Id. at 1294. In the other paragraph of the file history, while the applicant described how the process differed from the asserted references, the court considered that the statements in this paragraph again did not specifically exclude "ion bombardment." Id. at 1294-95.

Here, on the other hand, anybody reading the '070 file history can readily tell that Deckard plainly stated that "moderating a temperature difference" required the removal of bulk heat to prevent growth, with these admissions directly tied to distinguishing Arcella. There is nothing untethered or ambiguous about these repeated statements.

Plaintiffs' use of Cordis Corp. v. Medtronic AVE, Inc., 339 F.3d 1352, 1359 (Fed. Cir. 2003), and IMS Tech., Inc. v. Haas Automation, Inc., 206 F.3d 1422, 1439 (Fed. Cir. 2000), are also off-target. In both Cordis and IMS, the Federal Circuit examined statements made during prosecution to distinguish prior art. Cordis, 339 F.3d at 1359; IMS, 206 F.3d at 1439. Like Northern Telecomm, the Cordis court held that the statement was "amenable to multiple reasonable interpretations and it therefore does not constitute a clear and unmistakable surrender" of claim scope. Cordis, 339 F.3d at 1359. Ambiguity was likewise found in IMS, 206 F.3d at 1439. Again, in this case, Deckard was not ambiguous, and could not have been more clear when he stated that "moderating a temperature difference" includes the removal of bulk heat to prevent growth of the article.

Statements Contained in the '589 Patent File History Also Confirm That C. The Claims Must Include Removing Bulk Heat to Prevent Growth

Here again, Plaintiffs claim that the function of "moderating the temperature difference..." found in claim 1 of the '589 patent simply means "to lessen the temperature difference" between the top two layers. Once again, the file history precludes that construction.

Plaintiffs admit, as they must, that during prosecution the claimed invention was characterized as "important for reducing differential shrinkage and growth." These were not "casual" and "gratuitous" statements. They were calculated to distinguish prior art to gain allowance.

As in the case of the '070 patent prosecution, Deckard explained that "moderating the temperature difference ... provides the important advantages of reducing differential shrinkage of the article being produced (which results from thermal gradients between fused and unfused powder) and in reducing growth of the article into unfused powder (which results from excess bulk heat in the article)." ('589 File History, Exh. B, pp. 556-568, at p. 563) (emphasis added).

Caught in the cross-hairs of Arcella, Deckard relied on these "important advantages" three times to distinguish this claim over the prior art. (Exh. B, at pp. 563-64; Exh. B, pp. 588-91; Exh. B, pp. 602-07). These were not "gratuitous" statements. Rather, they were required under the circumstances and were intended to distinguish the prior art to obtain claim allowance.

Instead of the insanity defense raised for the '070 statements, Plaintiffs here rely heavily on Pickholtz v. Rainbow Techs., Inc., 284 F.3d 1365 (Fed. Cir. 2002), for the proposition that "casual and gratuitous" statements during prosecution do not result in the disclaimer of claim language. The facts of the Pickholtz case are quite at odds with those presented here, however, and Pickholtz is inapposite.

In Pickholtz, the claim at issue recited a "computer" having a "[PRN] device located in the computer." The district court construed the term "computer" to exclude peripherals, rejecting Pickholtz's argument that he had used the term "computer" and "computer system [including peripherals]" synonymously. The Federal Circuit reversed, agreeing with Pickholtz that the terms were used synonymously. In doing so, it examined the statements made in the prosecution history to see if they compelled a contrary result.

During prosecution, Pickholtz attempted to distinguish his claim from the Thomas prior art patent, which "clearly uses the terms 'computer' and 'computer system' in a part-whole relationship." Id. (citations omitted). Pickholtz argued that Thomas lacks a "[PRN] generator device located in the computer." The infringer argued that Pickholtz, by using the term "computer" in his remarks about Thomas, must have meant different meanings for the words "computer" and "computer system" because Thomas did. The Federal Circuit rejected such a tenuous argument, finding that Thomas did, in fact, disclose PRN generating software located in the computer, and further noting that "Pickholtz did not distinguish his invention over Thomas

(to prevent growth). Heating alone does not suffice, as the specification says, and as the file histories make crystal clear.

Plaintiffs correctly recite that the second step in construing claim limitations under §112. ¶ 6 is identifying the structure recited in the specification required to perform the function, but plaintiffs incorrectly suggest that structure can be pared down and rearranged in contravention of the specification. (Plaintiffs' Opening Brief, p. 15). As plaintiffs' own cases make clear, the Court must identify the structure that the specification clearly links to performing the function. Northrop Grumman Corp. v. Intel Corp., 325 F.3d 1346, 1352 (Fed. Cir. 2003) ("structure disclosed in the specification is 'corresponding' structure 'only if the specification or the prosecution history clearly links or associates that structure to the function recited in the claim"); see also Chiuminatta Concrete Concepts, Inc. v. Cardinal Indus., Inc., 145 F.3d 1303, 1308 (Fed. Cir. 1998) (means-plus-function claim limitation "must be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material, or acts described in the specification and equivalents thereof") (emphasis added). Here, the specification and prosecution history only clearly link the entire downdraft system to "moderate a temperature difference," and they nowhere suggest that the resistance heater may be moved out of its passage, repositioned, and operated to "moderate a temperature difference." Plaintiffs' urgings to the contrary cannot be accepted.

B. The Structure That Performs The Function Includes The Entire Downdraft System, And Cannot Be Just The Resistance Heater

Having properly identified the function, the structure disclosed in the patent specification that is linked to the function is the downdraft air system disclosed in FIG. 11. In its opening

⁷ Citing ACTV, Inc. v. Walt Disney Co., No. 02-1491, 2003 WL 22300131 (Oct. 8, 2003) for the proposition that the identity of the function in a means-plus-function claim is limited to that "explicitly recited in the claim" (Plaintiffs' Opening Brief, p. 15, n. 21), Plaintiffs ignore the actual holding of ACTV -- the meaning of the function as "explicitly recited in the claim" requires construing the meaning of the function in light of the specification and the prosecution history. Id. at *8-10.

brief (at pp. 7-9), EOS explained in great detail all of the components in FIG. 11 that are required to heat the top layer of powder and remove bulk heat.

Plaintiffs, on the other hand, now want the Court to believe that the only corresponding structure is the resistance heater 142 shown in FIG. 11. The resistance heater 142, by itself, is not able to perform the function of heating the top layer of unfused powder and removing bulk heat from the fused powder. According to the '589 Patent specification, the removal of bulk heat to prevent growth is accomplished by directing heated air downwardly through the target area where the part is being built. Clearly, more than just the resistance heater 142 would be required to perform this function; heated air must be directed downwardly.

In addition to a resistance heater 142 for simply heating air (as in a toaster), a fan and or vacuum arrangement 140/141 (see FIG. 11) is required to move the heated air and to move it through the chamber 138 surrounding the support 134 upon which the part is built. The chamber is required to contain the air flow and direct it to the target surface. Moreover, because the air has to flow through the target area, the support 134 includes a porous material such as the filter medium 136, on top of honeycomb porous medium 148. Finally, the heated air is disclosed as being exhausted out of the chamber 138 to remove the bulk heat, and as a result, the plenum 150 is required to gather the air for passage to an outlet 152. All of the above-mentioned structure is set forth to perform the function of "moderating the temperature difference."

C. Plaintiffs' Claim Differentiation Argument Has No Merit⁸

Plaintiffs argue that the "temperature control means..." cannot be construed to include all of the elements of the downdraft air system, because such a construction would violate the

⁸ This section of EOS's brief applies equally to "means-plus-function" and "step-plus-function" claim elements under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 6.

doctrine of claim differentiation. In particular, Plaintiffs contend that because claim 2 of the patent requires "a heater for heating gas" and "means for directing the heated gas at the target surface," and because claim 3 requires "exhausting means for exhausting the directed heated gas from the vicinity of the target surface," the doctrine of claim differentiation requires that claim 1 must not include the fan and exhaust. Otherwise, according to Plaintiffs, claims 1, 2 and 3 would be rendered redundant.

This exact same argument has been completely discredited by the Federal Circuit. In Laitram Corp. v. Rexnord, Inc., 939 F.2d 1533, 1538-39 (Fed. Cir. 1991), a means-plus-function claim element in an independent claim was construed to require a "cross member," even though the dependent claim also required a "cross member." The plaintiff argued, just as the Plaintiffs in this case are now arguing, that the independent claim "cannot also require a cross member because to so hold would emasculate the doctrine of claim differentiation." Id. at 1538. In rejecting that argument, the Federal Circuit held that claim differentiation cannot override 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶ 6:

[s]imply stated, the judicially developed guide to claim interpretation known as "claim differentiation" cannot override the statute. A means-plus-function limitation is not made open-ended by the presence of another claim specifically claiming the disclosed structure which underlies the means clause or an equivalent of that structure. If Laitram's argument were adopted, it would provide a convenient way of avoiding the express mandate of section 112[, ¶ 6]. We hold that one cannot escape that mandate by merely adding a claim or claims specifically reciting such structure or structures.

Id. at 1538. Plaintiffs' claim differentiation argument must therefore fail. Moreover, claim differentiation cannot alter a definition that is otherwise clear from the claim language,

⁹ Moreover, contrary to Plaintiffs' assertions, EOS has not violated the "tenet of claim construction" that limitations from the specification are normally not imported into the claims. Under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶6, this is precisely what one must do to identify the required structure – look to the specification. None of the cases Plaintiffs cite in fn.10 are germane (Amgen Inc. v. Hoechst Marion Roussel, Inc., 314 F.3d 1313, 1326 (Fed. Cir. 2003), Anchor Wall Sys., Inc. v. Rockwood Retaining Walls, Inc., 340 F.3d 1298,

description, and prosecution history; where "the description provides a clear meaning for the language of the claim ... it trumps the doctrine of claim differentiation." O.I. Corp. v. Tekmar Co., 115 F.3d 1576, 1582 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

PLAINTIFFS FAIL TO IDENTIFY THE PROPER CORRESPONDING IV. STRUCTURE TO THE "MEANS FOR SUCCESSIVELY DISPENSING A PLURALITY OF LAYERS AT A TARGET SURFACE" LIMITATION IN **CLAIM 1 OF THE '589 PATENT**

Claim 1 of the '589 patent requires "means for successively dispensing a plurality of layers of powder ..." The only structure in the patent the corresponds to the claimed function of "dispensing a plurality of layers of powder" is the assembly shown in FIGS. 9 and 10 of the patent. The powder dispenser 14 disclosed in Figure 1 of the '589 patent is not structure linked to and corresponding to the claimed function of dispensing a plurality of layers of powder because, quite simply, it does not create a layer of powder, let alone a plurality of layers as required by the claimed function. Instead, the powder dispenser 14 merely dumps (i.e., dispenses) powder onto the target area in a mound, according to the specification. There is no structure disclosed in Figure 1 (or Figure 2 for that matter, or anywhere else in the specification except in relation to Figures 9 and 10) that is capable of forming layers of powder. Because the powder dispenser 14 does not perform the function of dispensing a plurality of layers of powder at a target surface, it cannot be deemed corresponding structure.

In their Opening brief, Plaintiffs state that the patents-in-suit disclose two alternatives for dispensing new powder, the hopper in FIG. 1 and the counter-rotating drum in FIGS. 9 and 10, thus implying that each of these alternatives constitutes structure that corresponds to the claimed

1307 (Fed. Cir. 2003), Resonate Inc. v. Alteon Websystems, Inc., 338 F.3d 1360 (Fed. Cir. 2003),

Sunrace Roots Enter. Co., Ltd. v. SRAM Corp., 336 F.3d 1298 (Fed. Cir. 2002), and Crossroads Sys. (Texas), Inc. v. Chaparral Network Storage, Inc., Case No. A 00 CA 217 SS (W.D. Tex. July 27, 2000));

as none of them addresses claim construction under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 6.

function of dispensing a plurality of layers of powder. However, as stated above, the hopper disclosed in FIG. 1 does not dispense layers of powder, and thus cannot constitute corresponding structure.

V. A STEP-PLUS-FUNCTION CLAIM BY ANY OTHER NAME IS STILL THE SAME; HERE, "DEPOSITING A FIRST LAYER OF THE POWDER AT A TARGET SURFACE" AND "HEATING...TO MODERATE" QUALIFY, BECAUSE ALL THEY PROVIDE IS A STEP WITHOUT AN ACT

While the use of the classic terminology "step for" is a red-flag for a presumptive stepplus-function claim, the case law is equally clear that, where a method claim element sets forth a function without disclosing the act necessary to perform it, the element shall be deemed to be in step-plus-function form. Masco Corp. v. United States, 303 F.3d 1316, 1327 (Fed. Cir. 2002); Cummins-Allison Corp. v. Glory, Ltd., No. Civ. A.02-C-7008, 2003 WL 22125212 *6 (N.D. Ill., Sept. 5, 2003). Just as in the means-plus-function context, it is not just the use of the talismanic word "for" that determines the spots of the leopard, but rather it is the nature of the beast itself that must be looked to. 10 Plaintiffs' attempt (3D Brf. p. 8) to dismiss these steps and see them for what they are is myopic.

Nor do Plaintiffs show any act being present for performing the function of the step of "heating the second layer of powder to a temperature... to moderate a temperature difference..." in Claim 1 of the '070 patent. As EOS showed in its Opening Brief at p. 13, this clause may be wordy, but this total functionality was confirmed by the file history when the step was added by Amendment ("the function of the heating operation, relative to the second layer, as moderating the temperature difference." Exh. D, at p. 135). Heating "to a temperature below the sintering

19

¹⁰ Plaintiffs try to be equally dismissive in their fn. 12, citing some extrapolation that because the Federal Circuit has not dealt with many step-plus-function constructions, they are rare beasts. It may simply be that not many of these claims have been submitted to that Court, or been properly presented as such.

temperature" (whatever that is) is no more of an act than was "reducing the coefficient of friction to below about 0.40" was in *App. of Roberts*, 470 F.2d 1399, 1402 (C.C.P.A. 1973). There, it was found to be all function.

Accordingly, the only structure of the act for effecting the function of "heating ... to moderate ..." is that described in relation to Fig. 11, *i.e.*, the mechanism for removing the bulk heat, as well as raising the temperature of the second layer of powder. As in *App. of Roberts*, 470 F.2d 1399, 1402 (C.C.P.A. 1973), this clause "defines a result but fails to identify the specific act or acts required to produce the result claimed."

Plaintiffs fail to even address that the step of "depositing a first layer of the powder at a target surface" is also in step-plus-function format, notwithstanding that EOS had put them on prior notice that this step was to be construed. Apparently they agree that there is no "act" in this step, only "function." Resort to the specification then reveals that the only structure for effecting this act is that described in relation to Figs. 9 and 10 (to wit, the hopper having a metering roller, leveling mechanism that has a cylindrical drum, and so forth as set forth in EOS's claim chart, and at p. 18 of our Opening Brief).

VI. CONCLUSION

Deckard's own statements contained in the file history dictate that "moderating a temperature difference" includes the removal of bulk heat to prevent growth of the part being built. Calling them "inaccurate," "inconsistent," "irreconcilable," "ambiguous," "casual" and "gratuitous" does not make them so. Deckard's admissions, which were of course made before this lawsuit existed, were both clear and unmistakable, and no amount of Plaintiffs' litigation-induced spin can change that fact. The constructions set forth by EOS should be adopted for the terms discussed herein as well as those that Plaintiffs failed to address.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWN MCCARROLL, L.L.P. 1300 San Jacinto Center 98 San Jacinto Boulevard P.O. Box 2063 Austin, Texas 78768-2063 (512) 476-4716 (512) 476-5139 (Telecopier)

Bv

THOMAS H. WATKING State Bar No. 20928000 ALBERT A. CARRION, JR. State Bar No. 03883100

MICHAEL H. BANIAK
MICHAEL D. GANNON
CHARLES C. KINNE
ANDREW PRATT
BANIAK PINE & GANNON
150 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 1200
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 673-0360
(312) 673-0361 (Telecopier)

DAVID J. LAING
BAKER & MCKENZIE
815 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 452-7023
(202) 452-7074 (Telecopier)

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT EOS GMBH ELECTRO OPTICAL SYSTEMS

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was provided to counsel of record by the method indicated below on this the 10th day of November 2003:

Philip E. Cook Robert W. Dickerson JONES DAY 555 W. Fifth Street, Suite 4600 Los Angeles, California 90013-1025 via Federal Express

Alan D. Albright Elizabeth J. Brown Fore GRAY CARY WARE & FREIDENRICH, LLP 1221 South Mopac Expressway, Suite 400 Austin, Texas 78746-6875 via first-class mail

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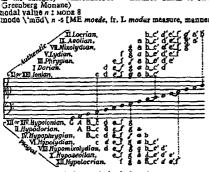
-Collier's Yr. Bk. > 5 a: limited in scope or effect (made a \sim wealth had only a ~ effect on his way of life > b: not severe in effect: not seriously or permanently disabling or incapacitating (a few days of \sim illness accompanied by chilly sensations and loss of appetite —Morris Fishbein) (of the 18 cases in which whooping cough developed ... 13.3 percent were very mild, 4.8 percent were mild and 3.7 percent were ~—Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc. 6: not expensive: reasonable or low in price (how to be well dressed at a ~ cost — Current Blog.) (a ~ price for a new house > 7 of a color: of medium lightness and medium chroma.

2mod er ate \'mada rat, usu -ad + V\ vb -ED/-ING/-S [ME moderaten, fr. L moderatus, past part. of moderare, moderari to moderate] vt 1 a: to lessen the intensity or extremeness of : make less violent or excessive : keep within bounds : make moderate or temperate (considerations of logic and analogy. and history and tradition which ~ and temper the promptings of policy and justice —B.N.Cardozo \ \(\text{moderated} \) the harshness of their initial demands) (a quick and efficient job of snow removal moderated the effect of the storm) b: to lower or soften the tone of (a voice) (moderated his voice as they approached the sickroom \(\sqrt{\sigma} \) your voice if you expect to be listened to \(2 \) archaic : to exercise control over : REGULATE, RULE 3: to preside over or act as chairman at (moderated the debate with perfect fairness (moderated a small local variety show —Gladwin Hill) 4: to reduce the speed or energy of (neutrons) ~ vi 1: to act as a moderator (became famous when he moderated on a weekly panel show) 2 archaic to act as a mediator 3: to become less violent, severe, rigorous, or intense (the wind has moderated) (loitering a little because the night had moderated —Kay Boyle)

syn QUALIFY, TEMPER, ATTEMPER: MODERATE indicates abating extremes or excesses in keeping within reasonable or due limits (moderating his big voice to the dimensions of the room -Clifton Daniel (if the new poets can bring themselves to

manifestations of God modalist ty \modalist. To MF, it modal (fr. MI modalis) + -iti -ity] 1 a; the quality or state of being modal (the ~ of his music) (~ of a circle) b; a modal quality, attribute, or circumstance; Form, Pattern (as the varying subject matter requires, the narrative and style take on the modalities of comedy, romance, tragedy, or tragicomedy—J.W.Beach) 2; that qualification of logical propositions according to which they are distinguished as asserting or denying the possibility, impossibility, contingency or necessity of their content—see CateCory 1b 3: one of the main avenues of sensation (as vision or audition) 4 a; any of several agencies used in physical therapy (as diathermy, high-frequency currents, or massage) b: an apparatus for applying such agencies 5: a tendency to conform to a pattern or type (the greater ~ of the male in this regard is indicated by a smaller representation of males than females in the category "Miscellaneous"—Eleanor Smith & J.H. Greenberg Monale) and seed the season of the modal variety of the

modal value n: MODE 8
'mode \'mod\ n -s [ME moede, fr. L modus measure,



mode la : ecclesiastical modes

Milipopiorian, of \$ 2 kg kg c d c | Milipopiorian | Milipopiorian | S 2 kg c d c | Milipopiorian | Milipopiorian | S 2 kg c d c | Milipopiorian | Milipopiorian | S 2 kg c d c | Milipopiorian | Milipopiorian | S 2 kg c d c | Milipopiorian | Milipopiorian | S 2 kg c d c | Milipopiorian | Milipopiorian | S 2 kg c d c | Milipopiorian |

trapper ~ with a high guard at the toe — R.L.Neuberger (2): an article of clothing (as a dress with a distinctive design) (girls, self-conscious in their Paris ~ w Paul Bowles) (girls, self-conscious in their Paris ~ w Paul Bowles) (girls, self-conscious in their Paris ~ w Paul Bowles) (girls, self-conscious in their Paris ~ w Paul Bowles) (girls, self-conscious in their paris ~ w Paul Bowles) (girls, self-conscious in their girls) (girls) (g

mod-el-ize \-d'l,iz\ vi, archaic : to give a particular form to : St.PE | vi, archaic : to give a particular form to : St.PE | vi, archaic : to give a particular form to : St.PE | vi, archaic : to give a particular form to carbod in the control of teachers' training coilege and used as a model in organization and methods of teaching model t adi, usu cap Md Titr. Model T, early type of motor car having only two speeds forward and a hand gasoline feed that was manufactured by the Ford Motor Co. between 1909 and 1927] I: belonging to an initial or rudimentary phase of development (when nuclear weapons were in the Model T stage of development —N.T.Mines) 2: (o.LD-RSMONED, OUTMODIS) (a Model T plot) (a Model T school plant)

1mo-de-ma \mod^n - \

Modena \"\ n [fr. Modena, province or its capital city in northern Italy] 1 usu cap: an Italian breed of small hen pigeons that have an erect carriage and varicolored plumage with the head and wings often of a color different from that of the body 2-s often cap: any pigeon of the Modena breed mode-nese \"\modeln'sEz, -Es\ n, pl modenese \"\ cap [It modenese, fr. Modena, Italy + It -ese]: a native or resident of Modena

Modera

Moderant \midsoan\ n -s [*moderate + -ant, n. sulfix]

something that moderates

mod-er-ant-ism \-a,tizem\ n -s [F moderatisme, fr. moderate, ant (pres. part, of moderer to moderate, fr. L moderare) +
-lsme-ism] : a policy of moderation esp. in politics

mod-er-ant-ist \-tst\ n -s [F moderantisme, fr. moderant +
-lst - |st] : an adherent of moderantism

mod-er-ant-to \mid-mid-girt, usu -do-t\-\tau\ od [MF. fr. L moderatus, past part of moderare, moderar to moderate, fr. modus

—Collier's Yr. Bk.) 6 a: limited in scope or effect (made a ~ change in the bill which failed to satisfy its critics) (his new wealth had only a ~ effect on his way of life) h: not severe in effect: not seriously or permanently disabling or incapacitating (a few days of ~ lineas accompanied by chilly sensations and loss of appetite —Morris Fishbein) (of the 18 cases in which whooping cough developed... 13.3 percent were very mild, 4.8 percent were mild and 3.7 percent were very mild, 4.8 percent were mild and 3.7 percent were very mild, 4.8 percent were mild and 3.7 percent were ~ -four. Amer. Med. Assoc.) 6: not expensive: reasonable or low in price (how to be well dressed at a ~ cost —Current Blog.) (a ~ price for a new house) 7 of a color; of medium lightness and medium chroma.

2 modear-atte \ 'mädg.r\st. usu -\st. d+\' vb -\vb -\vb \-\vb \-\

the swertiles of arithmetic to the delicacy of the female mind —Amer. Gulde Series: Va.) ATTEMPER is a close but now rarely used synonym for tempera in the sense of lessening (the shadow . . . attempered the cheery western sunshine —Nathaniel Hawthorne)

3mod.er.atle \'mkd(g)rist, usu -3d.+\V\ n -3 [Imoderate: intended as trans. of F moderel 1: one who holds moderate views esp, in politics or religion (the middle-of-the-road ~s in the world ... who wanted both stability and liberalism —W.G. Carleton) (always a ~, he deprecated extremists of both sections—H.K. Beale) 2 often eap 1 a member or adherent of a political party or group favoring a moderate program (second term as the candidate of the Moderates—Rev. of Reviews) moderates breeze n : wind having a speed of 13 to 18 miles per hour—see Beauforst SCALE table moderate galle n : wind having a speed of 32 to 38 miles per hour—see Beauforst SCALE table moderate galle n : wind having a speed of 32 to 38 miles per hour—see Beauforst SCALE table moderate galle n : wind having a speed of 32 to 38 miles per hour—see Beauforst SCALE table moderate galle n : wind having a speed of 32 to 38 miles per hour—see Beauforst SCALE table moderate. Alen. med see the se

measure, manner — more at METE] 1 a: characterized by an avoidance of extremes of behavior: observing reasonable limits: showing discretion and self-control (a ~ drinker) (a ~ eater) (a person of ~ habits) h: free from passion or excitement: CALM, REASONABLE (though very much in favor of the measure, he expressed himself in ~ language) (his demands were very ~> 2 a: tending toward the mean or average: as (1): neither small nor large (a family of ~ income) (a room of ~ size \ (a ~ crop) (2) : neither short nor long (a book of ~ length) \ (a ~ distance) b : having an average or less than average quality: MEDIOCRE (cheesecakes very ~ indeed —H.E. Bates) (wrote ~ poetry to the end of his life—Carl Van Doren) 3: not violent or rigorous: TEMPERATE (a ~ winter) (a ~ wind (a ~ climate) 4: of or relating to a political or social philosophy or program that avoids extreme measures and violent or partisan tactics (has no interest in leading a party that goes off to extremes, that the party direction must be ~ and yet progressive and dynamic —N.Y. Times \ all left-wing and some ~ and right-wing groups had boycotted the election -Collier's Yr. Bk. 5 a: limited in scope or effect (made a ~ change in the bill which failed to satisfy its critics) (his new wealth had only a ~ effect on his way of life > b: not severe in effect: not seriously or permanently disabling or incapacitating (a few dove of a illumination)

modal auxiliary

aodal auxiliary n: a verb or a grammatical form resembling a verb that is characteristically used with a verb of predication and expresses a modal modification (as can, shall, will, must, might, ough, could, should, would, may, need, dare) and that is English differs formally from other verbs in lacking -s, -lng, and pist-tense forms and shares with other auxiliaries the efficing of negative -n't is and -1 ism \-1, izam\ n -s [modal + -ism]: the theological exertine that the members of the Trinity are not three distinct persons but rather three modes or forms of activity (the rather, Son, and Holy Spirit) under which God manifests in Sec-all ist \-1, izam\ n -s [modal + -ism\ -1, izam\ -

persons but rather three modes or forms of activity (the rather, Son, and Holy Spirit) under which God manifests reasely seed-all-ist \ "last\ n -s [!modal + -!st] : an adherent of modalism — mod-all-is-tio \ \limodd\"|stik \ ad\ \ modalism — mod-all-is-tio \ \limodd\"|stik \ ad\ \ modalism — mod-all-is-tio \ \limodd\"|stik \ ad\ \ modalism \ monarchianism \ asu cap both Ms: an adherent of foodalism (monarchianism \ asu cap both Ms: modalchianism \ asu cap both Ms: modals \ asu \ a



mode 1a : ecclesiastical modes

Interpolation. I as a musical arrangement we eight diatonic notes or tones of an octave according to distribute fixed schemes of their intervals—see ECCLESSAL MODE, GREEK MODE be a rhythmical scheme; specify of the six metrical patterns in 13th and 14th century of a crresponding to the feet (as troches or dacty) in fical poetry and expressed in triple time 2; amono 2b indicative ~ of flat assertion alone—Weston La Barre). Let modus, it. L. measure, manner a 2; amono 1a b: the crim which a logical proposition is asserted or denied as being possible, impossible, necessary, or contingent 12 pertucular form or variety of something (a large and powering set of brothers and sisters, who were ~ or cass of the same type—Henry Adams) (her anguish se right before was in another ~ —Josephine Pinckney) straing movement on foot from other ~ of traffic was Mumford) b: a form, pattern, or manner of existing the singular poetic ~ —W.H.Gardner) (his recessar Struk (the only English poet who has adapted it is pends as a regular poetic ~ —W.H.Gardner) (his recessar in first literary ~) —Ausin Warren) (perhaps aspit expressive ~ of his day, the ~ of the liberal Emernetary of the other ~ of ratification may be proposed a Congress —U.S. Constitution) (new ~ of experimentary in symbols—Michael Kitson) 6: a conditional of being: a manifestation, form, or manner of armetic, specif; a particular form or manifestation of some brings substance, or of some permanent aspect or attribute in a substance — compare MIXED MODE, SIMPLE MODE State or manner of living: CUSTOM (a homogeneous abon that departs refluctantly from long-accepted in residence of the variety of the value o

1451

material (made many ~s of the coin before he was satisfied with one) 8; a person or thing regarded as worthy of iminion; something perfect of its kind (brevily that renders both writers such valuable ~s to an age whose worst literary; fault is diffusences —Richard Garnett [1966] (still remains a control of the person of th

form after a pattern: FRAME, Shape (~ed a double-decked steamboat —Waldemar Kaemplfert) 2 archaic: to make into an organization (as an army, government, or parish) 3 a: to shape or fashion in a pliable material (as clay, wax, or dampened leather) (a file of plasticene animals ~ed by the little girls —Elizabeth Bowen) b: to give a three-dimensional appearance to in painting or drawing esp. by means of chiaroscuro (~v the head so that it seems to stand out from the canvas) c: to emphasize the three-dimensional qualities of (a photographic subject) by means of highlights and shadows (a ~ing light for portrativer) (use shadows to lend interest to the scene, to ~it, give it emphasize—Aaron Sussman) 4: to construct or fashion in imitation of a particular model (~ed its constitution on that of the U.S.) (as for the speeches to Congress, they were palpably ~ed upon the speeches from the throne of the English kings—HL.Mencken) 5: to display by wearing, using, or posing with (~ed her inaugural gowns at a fashion show —N.Y. Times) (famous for ~ing refrigerators and other appliances) ~ vi 1: to design or imitate forms: make a pattern (she enjoys ~ing in clay) 2: to work or act as a model (asked each contestant... to ~ before the judges' enclosure—Lillian Ross)

3model \cdots and serving as or capable of serving as a model (a ~ house) (a ~ husband) (a ~ larm)
model basin or model stank n; a tank in which ship models are tested (as for inertia) by being towed at various speeds
mod.eli-er or mod-el-ler \cdot mad(?)|s(r) \cdot n; s: one that models:
as a: a carver of leather shoe vamps and uppers B: one who molds in a plastic material designs to be copied for decorative tile or statuary
mod-el-size \cdot dill \cdot \cdot are dill are \cdot \cdot are \cdot \cdot

mod-el-ize \-d*_iz\ w, archaic a to give a parameter 5 stape model school n : a graded school usu, connected with a normal school or teachers' training college and used as a model in organization and methods of teaching model 1 ad, usu cap Md T [it. Model 7 early type of motor car naving only two speech forward and a hand gasoline feed that was manufactured by the Ford Motor Co. between 1909 and 1901 T. Techniques in an article or redirectory phase of de-

moderatorship

measure, manner — more at Mexical 1 & 1 characterized by an avoidance of extremes of behavior 1 characterized (a ~ eater) (a person of ~ habits) b 1 free from passion or excisement 1 calon, REMONAME (Phough very much in favor of the over very ~ 2 & 1 trading four an impuse) this demands (i) in either small not raige (a family of ~ income) (a room of ~ size) (a ~ crop) (2) : neither short not long (a book of ~ length) (a ~ citar) (2) : neither short not long (a book of ~ length) (a ~ citar) (2) : neither short not long (a book of ~ length) (a ~ citar) (3) : neither short not long (a book of ~ length) (a ~ citar) (3) : neither short not long (a book of ~ length) (a ~ citar) (3) : neither short not long (a book of ~ length) (a ~ citar) (3) : neither short not long (a book of ~ length) (a ~ citar) (3) : neither short not long (a length) (3) : neither short not long (a length) (3) : neither short not long (a length) (3) : neither short (a length) (3) : neither short (3) : neit